

Iowa SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY PANEL

Annual Report 2005 - 06



VISION STATEMENT

All children in Iowa are members of communities that provide opportunities and needed supports for meaningful lives and quality education experiences.

(2000)

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2005-2006 MEMBERSHIP

Membership of the Panel consists of representatives from both public and private sectors who, by virtue of their position, interest, and training, can contribute to the education of children with disabilities. A majority (51%) of the members of the Panel must be individuals with disabilities or parents of children with disabilities. The Director of the Department of Education (DE) appoints members of the Advisory Panel.

Executive Committee:

Leon Mulford – Chair (Parent of child with a disability)
 Patrick Clancy – Vice-Chair (Urban Education Network)
 Lana Michelson – Bureau Chief (DE Bureau of Children, Family, and Community Services)
 Diane Moore – Panel Facilitator (DE)

Panel Members:

Kyla Alba – (Parent of child with a disability)	Michelle Laughlin – (Individual with a disability, Institute of Higher Education)
Erik Anderson – (Individual with a disability)	David Mitchell – (Vocational Rehabilitation Services)
Susan Benson-Blaine - (Parent of child with a disability)	Jon Muller – (Juvenile & Adult Corrections)
Jim Chesnik – (State welfare agency responsible for foster care)	W. Ray Richardson – (Superintendent)
Diana Gonzalez – (Board of Regents)	Beth Rydberg – (Protection & Advocacy)
Mark Hargrafen – (Parent Training and Information Center of Iowa)	Warren Steinbrueck – (Parent of child with a disability)
Allen Harris – (Individual with a disability)	LaShell Staley – (Parent of child with a disability)
Megen Johnson - (Alternate)	Susan Stock – (Teacher)
Renay Hauswirth – (Parent of child with a disability)	Dottie Van Hooser – (Private Schools, Parent of child with a disability)
Chuck Hinz – (Post-Secondary)	David VanHorn – (Area Education Agency, Director Special Education; Parent of child with a disability)
Jessica Iverson – (Teacher – special education)	Julie Waughtal Jensen – (Local Official-Homeless Assistance Act, Administrator of Programs for Children with Disabilities)
Nancy Kucera – (Adult Correctional Facility)	Chris Wilson – (Parent of child with a disability)
Cindy Laughead – (Parent of child with a disability)	

Panel Staff:

Susan White – Panel Secretary (DE)
 Dennis Dykstra – Administrative Consultant (DE)

Some groups had time to add strategies for their indicator. At the conclusion of the small group work, each group gave a brief summary of the targets set and the rationale behind these decisions.

On Sept 29 the Panel again worked in small groups to brainstorm strategies for several of the indicators. The groups were asked to consider how the strategies will affect the outcome of the targets set for Iowa and how they would be measured. The strategies considered were recommended for either state or AEA level work.

At the November meeting Barbara Ohlund reviewed the previous work on the Six-Year State Performance Plan. It was decided by the Panel that they would break into small groups to analyze and give input on seven indicators, and specifically the three that needed additional critiquing. The three are: Suspension/Expulsion, Least Restrictive Environment and Participation and Proficiency. Final recommendations were presented to the Bureau. The SPP was filed with the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) in December 2005.

Steve returned to the Panel in June to share the results of the financial reviews conducted from February through May 2006 in 18 selected school districts. He discussed the actions taken by the Department of Education to reduce the likelihood of financial errors being made at the district level. He reviewed the computer program he is designing for school business office personnel that will reduce the possibility of errors. Steve responded to the many questions from the Panel.

3. Very Early Learning Birth to 5/LauraBelle Sherman-Proehl:

LauraBelle gave a PowerPoint presentation on Iowa's Very Early Learning Birth-to-5 system indicate which programs are federally funded and which are state funded.

4. Learning Supports/Jane Today:

Jane presented an overview of Iowa's Learning Supports system and initiatives. Iowa's work draws upon initiatives around the country that are rethinking how schools and communities meet the challenges of addressing persistent barriers to student learning. These initiatives reflect a fundamental commitment to a three-component framework for school improvement. The three components are the following: Academic Instruction, Leadership and Learning Supports.

5. OSEP Conference Call/Gregg Corr and Kimberly Mitchell:

The Panel placed a conference call to Gregg and Kimberly at OSEP. Introductions were made and they gave a brief description of their roles at OSEP. They work with IDEA Part B (school age) and also Part C (infants and toddlers) programs. Their duties include: reviewing and approving state plans and monitoring and providing technical assistance to state education agencies and lead agencies for Part C Programs. Additionally, they receive phone calls from parents and/or teachers through their customer service department and contact the state with specific concerns.

Panel members asked questions regarding Part B and C monitoring, State Performance Plan and the rigorous targets. In general, OSEP feels that programs in each state are getting better because of No Child Left Behind (NCLB), IDEA '04 and the SPP.

6. Monitoring System/Lana Michelson and Dennis Dykstra:

The AEA Directors of Special Education recently asked Lana to answer the following questions:

1. What will Iowa look like at the end of the SPP?
2. What does it look like now?

Lana began a PowerPoint presentation with a focus on what Iowa believes will be accomplished by the end of the SPP. Dennis used data tables to demonstrate how each AEA is doing based on the six essential questions and how many targets have been met. He also presented the performance criteria for Iowa's special education outcomes, including the standard for determining criteria met/not met, what status has been given each AEA and the required Corrective Actions.

7. Legislative Update: Jeff Berger, Legislative Liaison

Jeff presented the Department of Education's legislative agenda and included a brief overview of Iowa's legislative process. In 2005 the Governor initiated a process called "purchasing for

legislative process/timelines in mind. The DE has already examined Iowa's regulations using IDEA'04 statute and made corrections where needed. Suana distributed a handout detailing Bureau staff assignments for this review under Chapter 41 Special Education and Chapter 120 Early ACCESS Integrated System of Early Intervention Services. The staff teams met twice a month to rewrite their assigned rule. Carol Greta, Legal Counsel for the DE, reviewed both Part B and Part C for any conflicts with the statute.

9. OSEP Indicators 13 and 14 (Transition Issues)/Barb Guy:

Barb presented information regarding Iowa's approach to OSEP indicators 13 and 14. After reviewing the Iowa Transition Accountability System, she distributed data and results from the Iowa Senior Exit Survey (2005). A discussion followed to answer questions from the Panel and detail the on-going work being done.

10. Highly Qualified Teacher/Norma Lynch:

Norma provided the Panel with an update on the Highly Qualified Teacher (HQT) issue. The presentation included reviewing Iowa's plan to implement the model, as well as activities to assist school districts in this endeavor.

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Related Activities

This section references Panel work to both continue professional development of members in topics related to special education and the work of the Panel to perform its duties.

Panel members were invited to attend conferences and workshops held in Iowa that offered opportunities for them to learn about specific topics and areas related to special education.

Meeting Dates 2006 – 2007

Thursday, September 28, 2006	12:30pm – 7:00pm	Stoney Creek Inn, Johnston, IA
Friday, September 29	9:00am – 3:00pm	Stoney Creek Inn, Johnston, IA
Friday, October 20	9:00am – 3:00pm	Stoney Creek Inn, Johnston, IA
Friday, December 1	9:00am – 3:00pm	Stoney Creek Inn, Johnston, IA
Friday, January 26, 2007	9:00am – 3:00pm	Stoney Creek Inn, Johnston, IA
Friday, April 20	9:00am – 3:00pm	Stoney Creek Inn, Johnston, IA
Friday, June 15	9:00am – 3:00pm	Stoney Creek Inn, Johnston, IA

CONTACT INFORMATION

Diane Moore, Panel Facilitator
Department of Education
Bureau of Children, Family and Community Services
Grimes State Office Building
Des Moines, IA 50319
Phone: 515-242-5104
Fax: 515-242-6019
E-mail: Diane.Moore@iowa.gov